

His 3100, Fall 2012

Sources and Debates, Revolutionary England, Essay on 1640-60 (7 pages, 20% of your grade)
Due 4 Dec. (note change)

Using at least five documents from *Sources and Debates*, ch. 7; and two or more broadsides or newsbook articles from EEBO*, write an essay on **either** (a) **or** (b) question prompt. You should contextualize these documents by using relevant detail from at least two secondary works/databases (for example, Bucholz and Key, *Early Modern England*, or Oxford Dictionary of National Biography online, or one of the relevant secondary works [by historians] listed at the end of the chapter). You should make a coherent essay (that is, have an argument).

- a. What impact did civil war have on the lives and psyches of the English people?; How did this impact differ between men and women? [For this essay prompt you might want to contextualize your documents of the 1640s with the social history of the late-16th and early 17th centuries, and, thus, draw upon Bucholz and Key, *Early Modern England*, ch. 6.]
- b. To what extent were the political and religious issues and ideas of the 1640s and 1650s new or unique?; to what extent were they rooted in controversies left over from the late Tudor and early Stuart periods? [For this essay prompt you might want to contextualize your documents of the 1640s with the political/narrative of the early Stuarts, and, thus, draw upon Bucholz and Key, *Early Modern England*, chs. 7-8.]

Be sure to devote much of the essay to comparing and contrasting the documents themselves (showing how what they state does or does not fit an argument historians have made about the period) and explaining the text/context of the 1-2 central ones.

Pre-Assignment (due midnight 26 Nov. D2L): Do an advanced search on EEBO, searching for an "Illustration" for the 1637-1660 period (mainly 1640s) using bibliographic term "669" (that is, George Thomason's call mark for large broadsides). Cut-and-paste the most relevant/useful part of the broadside into a word document, provide a footnote/endnote citation, and a two-sentence description (to the best of your ability using both your text and sourcebook to help you place it) of the *illustration* in the broadside. How does it relate either to social issues of the period and/or to political or religious issues of the period?

Example



John Leicester, *[E]nglands miraculous preservation emblematically described, erected for a perpetual monument to posterity* (London, 1646 [i.e. "26 Jan.," 1647]), broadside. This engraving has the Houses of Lords, Commons, and, presumably, Church Assembly floating on "Englands Ark," while the waters roil and dark clouds are overhead. Soldiers (generals) with swords and muskets are about to be swallowed by the waves along with bishops (a mitre) and, probably, Laud (lawn sleeves) and a woman (Queen Henrietta Maria?). Separate are portraits of Essex, Manchester, Fairfax, Cromwell, and others, suggesting they are separate or perhaps the saviors of England against these forces of turmoil, making this a pro-Parliament, anti-Royalist broadside. [any two of these sentences would be enough]

For your paper you should draw upon (quote, analyze, cite) five documents from *Sources and Debates*, ch. 7; and at least two sources from EEBO, and detail from at least two secondary works (*Early Modern England* is one such secondary work; you may also draw from online sources – but not “ask.com,” etc.; British Civil Wars & Commonwealth <http://www.british-civil-wars.co.uk/> is one very good source).

I am offering 3 points on your last mid-term exam if you quote, analyze, and integrate into your essay relevant material from **two or more** newsbooks of the 1640s or 1650s.

How to use EEBO for Newsbooks

Go to Booth Library <http://www.library.eiu.edu/welcome.html>

Resource by Subject <http://www.library.eiu.edu/eresources/bysubject.html>

History <http://www.library.eiu.edu/eresources/databases/websites.asp?Subcode=AH1>

EEBO <http://eebo.chadwyck.com/> (you can skip straight to this stage if you are on the campus network)

Search

Periodicals (upper right of screen)

Click year related to what you are writing on (scroll down to year's papers)

Mark newspaper(s) about date you are writing on [you may want to cut-and-past the titles, issues, for your citation later

Click marked list (top center of screen)

Under each title click View a list of your selected issues to download in PDF format

Click download the entire document and Download

Click confirm & Open with Acrobat

Read and/or print out

Example. Let's say I am writing my paper on question 2, about whether the issues of the 1640s are similar to issues 1580s-1630s or new. I have decided to focus (at least a paragraph or two) on the issues at the center of the trial and execution of King Charles. I note from *Sources and Debates*, doc. 7.12, that King Charles questions the court's authority.

Now, I would know by what authority – I mean lawful – there are many unlawful authorities in the world – thieves and robbers by the highways – but I would know by what authority I was brought from thence and carried from place to place, and I know not what. And when I know what lawful authority, I shall answer. Remember, I am your king – your lawful king – and what sins you bring upon your heads and the judgment of God upon this land, think well upon it – I say think well upon it – before you go further from one sin to a greater.

Therefore let me know by what lawful authority I am seated here and I shall not be unwilling to answer. In the meantime, I shall not betray my trust. I have a trust committed to me by God, by old and lawful descent [by hereditary right]. I will not betray it to answer to a new unlawful authority.

He is talking about monarchy the way Elizabeth might, and certainly the issue is about the role of law like we have seen in the Petition of Right and other early 17th century episodes (using EME, chs. 5, 7, etc.) I want to examine his trial in the newsbooks. I select

Mercurius elencticus. Communicating the unparallell'd proceedings at Westminster, the head-quarters, and other places; discovering their designes, reprovving their crimes, and advising the kingdome, Number 58, 26th December 1648-2nd January 1649

Mercurius melancholicus. Communicating the generall affaires of the kingdome. Especially from Westminster and the head-quarters, Number 2, 1st-8th January 1649

A briefe relation of some affaires and transactions, civill and military, both forraigne and domestique, Number 17, 1st-8th January 1649

A briefe relation is all international news or the fighting in Ireland (useful if I want to suggest that Ireland was a problem under Elizabeth and still is, but not for this). *Mercurius elencticus* is a satirical attack on the proceeding against the King (that is the paper is basically pro-Royalist). The second page of which (and you only have to cite it as above, basically cut-and-pasted from your marked list), notes with glee how William Prynne, a Parliamentarian and a Presbyterian who (we know) had been against the King and Laud, was now protesting “the Jesuiticall Counsels, and the Arbitrary and Tyrannicall Proceeding of the Army, against the King, Parliament, and present Government.” Hooray, that is my quote and I can note that, in 1649, attacks on the tyrannical proceedings of King Charles in the 1630s (no Parliament) have now changed to attacks against the tyrannical proceeding of the (Parliamentarian) Army because of Pride's Purge and the Trial of King Charles. Both Charles (what “lawful” authority do you have?; where is it written in law that you can try Kings) and the *Mercurius elencticus* note this. My paper is better and I just received extra credit.